Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/TRA:JRATWOOD:JH APPROVED BY EB/TRA:JRATWOOD EUR/NE - DGOODMAN

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P 042214Z AUG 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-UK CONSULTATIONS, AUGUST 22 AND 23

REF: A) STATE 193421; B) LONDON 12410

1. AT AUGUST 1-2 BONN TALKS ON SUMMIT HIJACKING DECLARATION, UK CHAIRMAN JOHN STEELE ADVISED DAS ATWOOD THAT UK WOULD BE SHORTLY DELIVERING A NOTE ADVISING US THAT UK FOR

PRESENT REJECTS US PROPOSALS RELATING TO DUAL DESIGNATION FOR BOSTON. POSSIBLE UK WOULD BE WILLING TO RECONSIDER ISSUE AFTER A FEW MONTHS, AND PARTICULARLY AFTER LIKELY FALL ELECTIONS IN UK ARE OVER. IN LIGHT OF THIS HANDLING OF RESOLUTION OF BOSTON ISSUE, UK PROPOSED THAT AUGUST 22-23 TALKS COVER ONLY TWA CAPACITY ISSUE. STEELE INDICATED THAT OWEN KEMMIS WOULD CHAIR UK DEL UNLESS ATWOOD WISHED TO COME TO LONDON, IN WHICH EVENT STEELE WOULD NOMINALLY CHAIR.

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- 2. ATWOOD RESPONDED BY EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT (BUT NOT SURPRISE) ON UK POSITION ON BOSTON AND BY STATING THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT CHAIR AUGUST 22-23 TALKS BUT THAT DECISION WOULD BE MADE UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.
- 3. REFTEL A HAD BEEN SENT INDEPENDENTLY FROM WASHINGTON

AND PRIOR TO ATWOOD-STEELE CONVERSATION. DEPARTMENT HAS NOW ADVISED BRITISH EMBASSY THAT ATWOOD WILL NOT CHAIR US DEL IF TALKS ARE HELD IN AUGUST AS NOW SCHEDULED. FURTHER, US IS INFORMED BY TWA THAT PROPOSAL OF ADDITIONAL FREQUENCY FOR WINTER MAY BE WITHDRAWN, DEPENDING IN PART ON LEVEL OF AUGUST TRAFFIC. DEPARTMENT HAS, THEREFORE, PROPOSED TO BRITISH EMBASSY THAT CAPACITY TALKS BE DEFERRED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 7-8, BECAUSE BY THAT DATE TWA POSITION WILL BE KNOWN. US WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, USE FACT OF LATE TIMING OF CONSULTATIONS TO PREJUDICE BRITISH POSITION IN ANY WAY. (IF TALKS ARE RESCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 7-8, ATWOOD WOULD CHAIR SINCE HE WOULD BE EN ROUTE TO BONN NEGOTIATIONS.)

- 4. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO REVIEW ABOVE POINTS WITH APPROPRIATE UK OFFICIALS TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN PROPERLY BRIEFED BY THEIR WASHINGTON EMBASSY. FURTHER, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EMBASSY COMMENTS ON WHY STEELE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF FALL ELECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH BOSTON ISSUE.
- 5. RE REFTEL B, DEPARTMENT IS REVIEWING ISSUE WITH

AFFECTED AIRLINES AND CAB. WE MAY WISH TO ADD THIS ITEM TO THE AGENDA, BUT THE ISSUE IS NOT URGENT AND THEREFORE DOES NOT CHANGE OUR PROPOSAL TO MOVE CONSULTATIONS BACK TO SEPTEMBER. VANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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